

A photograph of three Marines in camouflage uniforms and helmets. One Marine is in the foreground, looking towards the camera and holding a rifle. Two other Marines are in the background, one standing near a white Humvee and another further back. They are in an urban setting with a light-colored building and a large, dark, curved structure on the left.

# Marines

APRIL - JUNE 2001

Official Magazine of the Marine Corps

Exercise Desert Scorpion  
Patrolling an Urban Jungle





***Sergeant Daniel Wyatt, Support Battalion drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, shows he can hang on and tough it out during the first buck. Wyatt stayed on for eight seconds and earned 56 points for the ride during the bareback portion of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association, California circuit finals rodeo in Del Mar, CA, on Feb. 2 and Feb. 3.***

***Photo by Sgt. Sandra Chiaravallotti.***



# Marines

Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Gen. James L. Jones  
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps  
Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael

## Marine Corps News

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**Cover Photo:** Lance Cpl. Jeffrey G. Herrera, team leader, 2nd Plt., Battery A, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, patrols through Area 25 Combat Town on Camp Pendleton Feb. 23 as a part of bi-annual exercise Desert Scorpion. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington.

**Back cover:** Photo by John Raifsnider

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A point in time... 50 years ago.



# Safety Message From Our Commandant



The following information was taken from All Marine message 007/01.

Off-duty personal motor vehicle (PMV) fatalities during the first four months of this fiscal year (FY) were significantly lower than during the same period last year. Although, regrettably, eight Marines have died, that total is 15 fewer than were lost in FY00 and 10 less than in FY99 at a similar time. This is a tremendous achievement and we should all be extremely proud of all who have worked so diligently to achieve this result.

In the last three years 154 Marines have died in PMV mishaps, an average of over 50 per year. That trend must be reversed. Each of us must continue to work to mitigate the risks we face in our off-duty hours. Unrelenting vigilance is the key to reducing our mishap rates.

Some of you may think that it is premature to highlight our early success. I am convinced, however, that when we as a Corps focus our efforts on a vital mission we will obtain the results we desire. This ALMAR, therefore, is intended to emphasize the importance of this issue. Clearly, it is not the time to let our guard down, but rather an opportunity to renew those efforts that have led to this initial progress. With your hard work and energy, I am confident that we can turn this into a long-term success story and preserve the lives of many Marines.

Semper fidelis,

J. L. Jones  
General, U.S. Marine Corps,  
Commandant of the Marine Corps





# CMC Approves Martial Arts Utility Belt Regs

By Sgt. Tanya Espinosa

Henderson Hall News, HQMC

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Jones, recently approved the recommendations made by the Marine Corps Uniform Board to adopt the Martial Arts Utility Belt regulations for wear. The regulations are completely explained in Marine Administrative Message 200/01.

The message states the appropriate wear, size and length, and also explains the belts are not authorized for wear with civilian clothing. The message clarifies that the green utility belt, previously approved for wear instead of the khaki utility belt, is now a part of the Martial Arts Utility Belt system

and must first be earned to be in accordance with the new regulations.

Shortly after the Martial Arts Training Program was approved, so was the Martial Arts Belt System. The Martial Arts Belt System consists of different colored riggers belts, each color representing a different level of training. The different colors are tan, gray, green, brown, and black. Tan and gray are the entry level belts, however, once a Marine earns the green belt, they have a choice to either continue their training or train to become an instructor.

Upon instructor qualification Marines

will rate to wear a brown stripe on their green belt. Following the green belt are brown and black.

However, in order for a Marine to receive their black belt they must have been trained as an instructor trainer. Once certified they'll rate a black belt with a vertical red stripe, according to the Uniform Board for Uniform Policy Issues.

Classes are expected to go Corps-wide sometime this summer.

For more information log on to the Uniform Board at [www.tecom.usmc.mil/mcub/](http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/mcub/).

## New Shotgun, Training Plan Ready

Story and photo by 1stLt. Burrell Parmer  
MCB Quantico

The Marine Corps will soon receive a new shotgun that will replace all current shotguns in service. The New Equipment Training Team is responsible for the initial training of Marines to ensure they can effectively use the M1014 Joint Service Combat Shotgun. The NET Team will teach weapon handling, weapons drills, and engagement techniques.

The JSCS will be replacing the Remington 870, Winchester 1200, Mossberg 500 and the Mossberg 590, which are currently in service.

"This is the first fielding of this weapon to a deploying unit in the Marine Corps," said GySgt. Donald R. LaPlante, doctrine developer/weapon instructor for Marksmanship Program Management Section. The goal of the NET team is to "train the trainer" to a level of proficiency to support the weapon and the Marines while on deployment.

The Marines will receive exactly the same training that the instructors endured.

"We go through all the skill training and drills in manipulating the weapon," said LaPlante. "We want to know how the Marines will react to range commands

and how they will perform with the weapon."

The main focus of the training was for the NET Team to go to the range and critique two different drills.



**GySgt. Donald R. LaPlante (left) and CWO-4 Daniel K. Luke, Chief Range Officer of the Marine Corps, discuss loading techniques on Range 3 at Weapons Training Bn.**

The first was a dry reload. The JSCS, being semi-automatic, allows the bolt to lock to the rear when the weapon is out of ammunition. The team has determined that the JSCS will be able to hold seven rounds of ammunition in its magazine tube and one in the chamber. When a Marine fires all eight rounds, he will be able to chamber a round with two techniques; wrapping beneath the weapon

and going on top of the weapon.

"Marines must be able to rapidly and continuously put rounds into the chamber," said LaPlante. "A Marine may not have ample time to successfully reload the magazine tube," he added.

The second drill was select shell drills. The JSCS fires the same variety of ammunition that the current shotguns fire, such as slug and buckshot. With select shell drills, the ammunition in the chamber may not be successful against certain targets that are too far or considered a hard target, requiring the operator to introduce into the weapon a selected shell or slug to have an affect on the target.

There are two drills that will be taught; magazine tube fully filled and magazine tube not fully filled. Each drill will be taught as an engagement technique.

According to the NET Team, it is not going to teach any techniques that are not beneficial to a Marine in combat.

The NET Team will be traveling to Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 5 to field the JSCS to Marine Service Support Group 24. MSSG-24 will be the first operational unit to deploy with the JSCS.

# Marine Barracks Kicks Off Bicentennial Celebration Events

Story by Marine Barracks Public Affairs Office  
Photos by Lance Cpl. Jason Ingersoll, HQMC Photo Lab

The “oldest post of the Corps” kicked off its bicentennial year celebration in a ceremony here March 30 on the historic parade grounds of “8th and I.”

General James L. Jones, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, as well as numerous other general officers and former barracks Marines were on hand to witness the commencement of the bicentennial celebration. During the commandant’s speech, he made it clear why the 200 years of history behind Marine Barracks is so important.

“This is where the soul of the Marine Corps is nurtured,” said Jones. “It is where we can come to be refreshed as Marines.”

The ceremony began with a concert by America’s oldest professional musical organization, “The Presidents Own” United States Marine Band. The band played a variety of patriotic arrangements, saluting the Marine Corps and their most famous director, John Philip Sousa.

The commencement continued with a special flag raising ceremony. In honor of Marine Barracks’ bicentennial, the flag raised was an exact replica of the National Ensign that would have flown in 1801. The replica contains 15 stars and 15 stripes. This historical flag will be flown for all ceremonies conducted at the barracks throughout this bicentennial year.

Upon completion of the flag raising, a traditional cake cutting ceremony honored the Marines who had the longest and shortest service at the post.

The Marines honored were Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles V. Corrado of “The Presidents Own” and Private First Class Brian D. Franks of Headquarters and Service company. These Marines have served at the Barracks for 39 years and one week respectively.

The ceremony concluded with Gen. Jones and Col. Richard T. Tryon, Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, unveiling the bicentennial plaque. The plaque commemorates the 200 years of faithful service Marine Barracks has given to our Corps and our nation. The commemorative inscription will be mounted on the brick wall at the entrance to center walk next to the barracks mast and ceremonial bell.

The barracks will continue to celebrate its bicentennial throughout the year, culminating with the final Evening Parade of the summer, Aug. 31.



The bicentennial plaque commemorates the barrack’s faithful service to the Corps.



A U.S. 15 star flag, symbolizing the original flag flown at the barracks, is raised.

The Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps plays a multitude of songs during the Bicentennial Anniversary event.



Marines from 8th and I march the cake for the cake cutting ceremony.





The command's newest and longest serving active duty Marines, Private First Class Franks and Master Gunnery Sgt. Corrado respectively, wait to participate in the cake cutting ceremony.



Marines from Marine Barracks 8th and I observe as the Marine Band and the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps perform during the celebration.



Chief Warrant Officer-2 Brian Dix conducts the Drum and Bugle Corps through a multitude of songs for the audience and guests.



Col. Tryon (left) and Gen. Jones (right) unveil the bicentennial plaque.

# Get Pay Hike

of more than \$100 per month

**Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem**  
American Force Press Service

The Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000, signed recently by President Clinton Nov. 1, makes several important improvements to the Montgomery GI Bill — including boosts in pay.

Monthly payments have climbed by nearly \$100. The rate for full-time training increased from \$552 a month to \$650 for eligible veterans with at least a three-year term of service. The rate for those with a two-year term of service went from \$449 a month to \$528.

The law also provided for an increase from \$485 a month to \$588 for eligible spouses and children under the Dependents Education Act.

“This program is for families of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled through their service, or who died while on active duty or shortly after leaving the service,” said Dennis Douglass, VA deputy director of education services.

“These families are our most at-risk population, because the traditional breadwinner has been taken out of the picture. This program is VA’s opportunity to reward the families of service members who have paid an incredible price.”

Another provision in the law addresses service members who leave active duty before the end of their first term and return later. Previously, these people were precluded from drawing the GI Bill benefit because the program recognized only the initial term of service. The new legislation allows VA to consider any term of service when deciding eligibility, Douglass explained.

“We’re not talking about somebody who spent ... six or eight months in the service and never came back,” Douglass

said. “We’re really talking about somebody who committed to the military and this nation. As equity would dictate, these people really are deserving of the benefit.”

Service members can now increase their contributions and receive increased benefits later. Members participating in the MGIB contribute \$1,200 at the rate of

long-awaited change to the old Veterans Educational Assistance Program, which was available to service members between 1977 and 1985. A 1996 law allowed anybody with money in their VEAP accounts to convert to the more generous Montgomery GI Bill. Many service members had no money in their VEAP accounts because they previously had been allowed to withdraw it, he said.

“As long as individuals were contributors to VEAP at anytime in their military service, the new legislation allows them to convert to the GI Bill if they were on active duty on Oct. 9, 1996, the date the previous law was enacted, and if they stayed on active duty continuously through Apr. 1, 2000,” Douglass said.

To become eligible for Montgomery GI Bill benefits, however, VEAP-era veterans must contribute \$2,700. Douglass explained \$2,700 was the maximum VEAP contribution.

Additional changes include:

- \* The cost of licensing and certification tests is covered. They previously were not.

- \* The cost of preparation courses for college and graduate school entrance exams for eligible Dependents

Education Assistance Program participants is covered.

- \* The maximum break in training allowed before a break in benefits occurs increased from one calendar month to eight weeks. “This basically allows students to go out and find a job for a short period between class terms,” Douglass said.

For more information on educational benefits for veterans, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Internet home page at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).



\$100 each month in the first year of service. The newly allowed additions can be made in \$4 increments up to a total maximum of \$600.

VA’s basic full-time education benefit of \$23,400 is paid in 36 monthly installments of \$650 and represents a 19.5-to-1 return on a member’s \$1,200 investment. Douglass said additional contributions would return 9-to-1. A \$600 maximum addition would raise a member’s total benefit to \$28,800 — 36 payments of \$800 a month

Douglass said the law also makes a



# Military Housing Privatization:

## *New Concepts For a New Millennium*

By Capt. Steve A. Butler  
Headquarters Marine Corps

A new military housing privatization project commonly known as Public/Private Venture is underway. Private industry is taking over military housing construction, maintenance and management.

The future of building modern up-to-date housing for Marine Corps families is today. Public/Private Ventures will focus on privatizing the replacement, renovation, maintenance, and operation of existing government housing. If additional housing is required, PPVs will be used to construct affordable units. Public/Private Ventures will also be the first choice for accomplishing whole-house revitalizations or replacements. Funding for PPVs is considered as a method of getting more housing for the same dollars, not the same housing for less money. Any savings achieved through PPVs will be re-invested in housing accounts.



**Proposed new family housing.**

Good housing is important to military morale and retention. In 1996, Congress passed legislation authorizing DoD to team up with private developers to rectify the depleting quality of military family housing. The specific reasons are simple: there isn't enough available base housing and the existing structures are old with costly repairs required. The new housing privatization initiatives are specifically designed to reduce the worries of military service members.

A developer partners with the Department of Navy with an understood level of ownership interest. The partnership provides low risk and maximum flexibility for DoN participation in PPVs.

When fully functional, the PPV projects will maximize the benefit of government investment by demonstrating a long-term cost effectiveness in comparison with a military construction project. Service members will have first priority on these housing units. All housing units built on federal property will address emergency, security, and law enforcement services, as well as jurisdictional matters, for civilian occupants.

One objective is to provide affordable housing at 0 percent out of pocket to the service member and still provide predictable cash flows for the developer/investor. To achieve 0 percent out-of-pocket over the term of the deal, rental increases must be equal to or less than Basic Allowance for Housing increases as well as reasonably accommodate utility expenses. Rents will be established in the same manner as in the private sector (i.e., by unit size and quality). When a PPV unit becomes available for a particular family size, the local housing office will refer the first family on the appropriate waiting list to the property management office.

The DoN utilizes a condensed acquisition process that minimizes the time, effort and money interested parties must put into the process. This ensures the selection of the most responsible and capable private company, investor, or development team with which the Marine Corps will partnership. Military site locations are subject to a series of investigations, evaluations and analyses carried out to establish the preferred project concept for



**Proposed revitalization family housing.**

subsequent introduction into the acquisition process.

The first PPV military housing ground breaking ceremony was conducted Dec. 4, at the Deluz Housing Area on Camp Pendleton, CA. Approximately 712 renovated or newly constructed housing units are planned for this location. The first 200 new units are expected to be ready for occupancy within nine to 12 months.

Overall, privatization is intended to be more economical than ownership. Life cycle cost will be greatly reduced for DoN privatization vice ownership.

The responsibilities of DoN ownership includes new/replacement construction costs, programmed and future re-capitalization requirements, design/source selection funding, projected operations and maintenance costs, less referral and major repairs. The responsibilities will also include school impact aid for housing on government land, which will diminish with privatization efforts. For example, PPV life cycle cost comparisons for San Diego indicate that privatization should result in a nine-11% savings over 50 years.

Most importantly, this monumental effort will improve the quality of life for the service members and their families stationed aboard Navy/Marine Corps military bases worldwide.

# Staff NCO Receives French National Defense Silver

By Lance Cpl. John Lawson III  
Marine Corps News, HQMC

Master Sgt. Rosemarie Weber joined elite company in January when the defense attache to the French embassy in Washington, DC. presented her with the French National Defense Silver Medal.

The attache, Maj. Gen. Daniel Bastien of the French Air Force, hosted the ceremony at his home in Bethesda, MD.

“What makes this gathering so special is that it is the first time, to my knowledge, that such a distinction of this category has been awarded to an American NCO since World War II,” Maj. Gen. Bastien told his guests.

Maj. Gen. Bastien said Master Sgt. Weber has assisted the French military in many ways, most notably in the areas of recruiting, recruit training, and combat training.

“For more than four years,” Maj. Gen. Bastien said, “you have been - and still are - the most reliable link between our NCOs and the Marine Corps. It is important to mention that

you have been setting the standard very high by your unconditional support, not only to France, but to all the foreign NCOs assigned in the Washington, D.C. area.”

France recognized Master Sgt. Weber for the four years she spent in the office of the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

During that time, she arranged a trip to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S.C. French representatives spent several days sampling a recruit’s life. The stay started at the famous yellow footprints and concluded with a march back from the Crucible.

Master Sgt. Weber said the French were fascinated to discover how much responsibility the Marine Corps entrusts to the noncommissioned officers who wear the Smokey Bear covers.

Master Sgt. Weber also arranged a trip to Camp Lejeune, N.C., where French representatives got the opportunity to train in the field under

**“you have been -  
and still are - the  
most reliable link  
between our  
NCOs and the  
Marine Corps”**

*– Maj. Gen. Bastien*

the guidance of the School of Infantry.

“They were actually out there getting dirty,” Master Sgt. Weber said. “I think it was enlightening.”

Also, Master Sgt. Weber arranged a briefing on recruiting at Quantico, VA. The French have been facing a lot of challenges getting volunteers to fill their armed forces, and they asked the Marines to share some success secrets.

When Master Sgt. Weber wasn’t handling something big for French military representatives, she was handling many of the little things that can pop up on a daily basis.

Master Sgt. Weber recently left her post with the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and now she works in the office of the Deputy Commandant for Aviation.

She said it was very flattering to be honored with such a prestigious medal. “It’s something that doesn’t happen to everybody.”

Those attending the ceremony included military representatives from 12 different countries. Noteworthy Marines on hand included: Lt. Gen. Fred McCorkle, the Marine Corps’ Deputy Commandant for Aviation; Brig. Gen. James Amos, the Marine Corps’ Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation; Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Alford McMichael; and former Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps (ret), Sgt. Maj. Lewis Lee.



French Air Force Maj. Gen. Daniel Bastien congratulates Master Sgt. Rosemarie Weber on being the first American noncommissioned officer to receive the French National Defense Silver Medal.



# STUDY SHOWS HIGHER MILITARY HEALTH CARE SATISFACTION

## DoD News Release

The Department of Defense announced the results of a recently completed study by the Center for Naval Analyses/Institute for Defense Analyses (CNA/IDA) which point to increased satisfaction with military health care, especially since the implementation of Tricare, the Department of Defense's (DoD's) health care program.

"This is what we really expect to see as Tricare matures," said Dr. J. Jarrett Clinton, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "We have great confidence in our military health personnel and our managed care support contractors, and we believe in their capabilities to successfully implement this program. While we have begun to see the fruits of our efforts, we are not complacent. There are many areas where we still need to work to make Tricare a health care benefit that more exactly meets the requirements of our readiness mission and exceeds the expectations of the beneficiaries we serve."

The study showed that the most significant increases in beneficiary satisfaction occurred in the areas of access and quality of care, particularly among Tricare Prime enrollees.

The percentage of all Tricare Prime enrollees who were satisfied with their access to care when needed in 1998 was 74 percent, compared to 63 percent "pre-Tricare." The percentage satisfied with the overall quality of care was 82 percent, compared to 73 percent before Tricare.

The CNA/IDA study is an ongoing, independent evaluation of Tricare that was congressionally directed. The new results reflect the experiences of beneficiaries in 1998 in Tricare Regions 3 (Southeast), 4 (Gulf South), 6 (Southwest), 7/8 (Central), 9 (Southern California), 10 (Golden Gate), 11 (Northwest), and 12 (Pacific). Regions with at least one full year under Tricare by the end of 1998 were included in the review. Region 11 was evaluated for the third time; Regions 3, 4, 6, and 9-12 for the second time; and Region 7/8 for the first time.

Access, quality and costs under Tricare were compared with estimates of what each would have been under the previous DoD health care benefit.

The new study found that government costs for the Tricare program were lower than they would have been under the previous health care benefit through the period that was reviewed.

The CNA/IDA review determined that out-of-pocket costs were lower for most active duty families, especially those enrolled in Tricare Prime with a military primary care manager. Costs were higher for



Tricare-eligible retiree families — averaging between \$236-\$381 more — under the Tricare program. Out-of-pocket costs for Medicare-eligible families were only marginally higher under Tricare because most of these families continue to carry supplemental forms of private insurance. Additionally, the availability of Medicare Plus Choice health maintenance organizations in some regions provides a low-cost alternative to Tricare.

CNA/IDA's evaluation of data from TMA's Annual 1994-1998 Health Care Surveys of DoD beneficiaries demonstrated that in the regions studied, access to health care generally improved under Tricare. Beneficiaries enrolled at an MTF tended to report greater levels of satisfaction with access than those enrolled with civilian primary care managers.

The study is on the Web at: [www.defenselink.mil/pubs/tricare02202001.pdf](http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/tricare02202001.pdf).

# 2/7 Marines Conduct Bilateral Training in the Republic of Korea

Story by Lance Cpl. Keith R. Meikle  
MCB Okinawa, Japan



Photo by Lance Cpl. Marcus D. Henry

**MARINE EXPEDITIONARY CAMP POHANG, Korea** — The Marines of 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, recently deployed to Korea as part of the Korean Incremental Training Program.

The primary focus of the training program is to create a positive working relationship with the Republic of Korea Marines.

“We are trying to develop and enhance our relationship with the ROK Marines,” said Lt. Col. Craig A. Tucker, battalion commander, 2/7. “Any time you can work with someone,

**Republic of Korea Marines take a break from the Scout Sniper Course during the Korean Integrated Training Program. KITP is a one and one half month joint training exercise. U.S. Marines participate in conjunction with the ROK Marines. Training took place at the Marine Expeditionary Camp Pohang, Korea.**

it increases the strength of the relationship.”

During KITP, 2/7 Marines went “runnin’ and gunnin’” with the ROK Marines, practicing patrolling skills and night attacks.

The learning experiences 2/7 gained from training with the ROK Marines prepared its Marines for a four-day battalion-sized field exercise.

“Training with the ROK Marines gives us a chance to learn tactics that they use that we may employ,” said Gunnery Sgt. Brian T. Foy, platoon sergeant, Scout Sniper Platoon, 2/7. “We explain our mission statement to them, then listened to their’s. Then both units would execute it to show each other how we each work as separate units”

Deployed to Okinawa from the

Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Center at Twentynine Palms, CA, 2/7 found itself on the opposite end of the climate spectrum when it visited Korea.

Training in Korea’s cold and mountainous region provided 2/7 a change of setting. 2/7, which is deployed on Okinawa as part of the the Unit Deployment Program, is more familiar with training in the dry desert heat underneath the California sun. Despite the cooler temperatures, however, the Leathernecks viewed the training as being helpful in maintaining their combat readiness.

“This training is necessary for us as a unit because we may be fighting in these (conditions) some day,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Robin P. Hummel, operations chief, 2/7.

“The climate in Twentynine Palms is the opposite of what we are getting here,” Hummel said. “This makes us more diversified by preparing us for cold weather and mountainous terrain, as well as the desert.”

The deployment to Korea was viewed as an overall success, according to Tucker, who said the deployment to Korea was “very productive.”



## 22d MEU Conducts Physical Challenge

**BRINDISI, ITALY** — The Marines and Sailors of the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) competed against one another in an Iron Man competition aboard the USS Nassau early January 1, 2001. The Iron Man competition tested the participants’ endurance more than it tested their strength. The events in the competition were pull-ups, sit-ups, push-ups, 150 pound military press, 225 pound bench press, and dips. Sgt. Joseph Devalte, a Belmawr, N.J. native with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Bravo Company, Engineering Platoon, is pictured pumping out the last of his 30 pull-ups.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Gordon A. Rouse





Marines from Lima Co., 3d Battalion, 3d Marines portrayed soldiers from two armies fighting for control of the area. Here the leader of one faction gives his troops a motivational speech "to rise up a fight the capitalist aggressors" who have invaded their country.

## 1/3's MCCRE Ends with a Twist

Story by Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver, Jr.  
MCB Hawaii

**MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS, MCB Hawaii** — Marines from 1st Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment wrapped up their Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Feb. 15 - 16, a task that included completing a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation.

Their final mission objective was to aid and support an embassy in a hostile country utilizing Marine Corps Training Area Bellows buildings as a mock embassy.

A continuous series of events set up by the Tactical Exercise Evaluation Control Group, led by Lt. Col. Mark H. Bean, regimental S-7 officer, kept all the Marines on their toes.

"This portion of the evaluation started out fast and furious, and as the exercise continued, it transformed into a more realistic type of mission that Marines would face when deployed into this type of situation," said Lt. Col. Bean.

Able to adapt and overcome, 1/3 utilized Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 to insert more than a hundred Marines from Bravo Co. into MCTAB at around 8 a.m. Feb. 15.

Immediately setting up a perimeter around the old air facility's buildings, Bravo Co. quickly established security to protect the pseudo-American embassy from hostile forces.

With ever-changing missions in deployed areas, Marines must be able to adapt to evolving situations. Teamwork and decision making skills are important elements when dealing with

unfamiliar people and settings, according to Lt. Col. Bean.

"This evaluation was good to go," said Sgt. Stan L. Hawkes, a platoon sergeant for Bravo Co., 1/3. "It gave a lot of our younger Marines the opportunity to rehearse an actual embassy mission."

Despite many new Marines, 1/3's performance during the MCCRE was commendable in the eyes of some evaluators.

"They have gotten a lot of new Marines, from lieutenants to riflemen, in the last couple of months," said 1st Lt. Jason M. Popowski, platoon commander for Kilo Co., 3/3. "It takes time for everyone to get on the same page, but the last week for these Marines has helped them get it together."

For realism during the exercise, two squad-sized groups of Marines from 3d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment acted as warring armies within the country of conflict.

Throughout the day, these two factions tested the resolve of the 1/3 Marines by taunting, insulting and questioning them as they stood their posts.

The NEO ended at 3 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16, when hostile forces threatened to overrun the embassy. At that point, the decision was made to evacuate all civilians for their safety.

"They've done absolutely great," said Lt. Col. Bean. "They learned a lot, but their performance was superb."

After successfully completing a scenario as intense as the one he developed for this NEO, Lt. Col. Bean said he was confident that 1/3 can deploy and meet the high standards of a Marine

# Dreams Can Come True

## Marines at HMT 303 Grant a Little Boy's Wish

Story and Photos by Sgt. Robert Piper  
Camp Pendleton, MCAS

A small boy in flight gear walks side-by-side with a Marine pilot. They are mirror images of one another as they approach an AH-1W, Super Cobra, attack helicopter. A captain sees that the 6-year-old passenger is fastened tightly into the front seat of the cockpit and the major settles in the rear seat. The engines begin to roar, producing the torrid spin of the rotors, and heat waves, which ripple against a blue, cloudless Southern California sky. As wash from the now invisible blades blows small debris off the flight line, the aircraft begins to lift off the ground and a "wish" has become reality.

One-and-a-half years ago, at the age of 5, William Grassell, of Pinedale, Wyoming, was diagnosed with an aggressive tumor in the cerebellum region of his brain. Fortunately, the initial prognosis was that the tumor had been caught early enough that Will could make a full recovery.



**Will Grassell is overwhelmed while he is being familiarized with all the equipment in the cockpit of a AH-1W Cobra.**

Shortly after the discovery, Will began chemotherapy. The family employed a well-known brain surgeon from Salt Lake City. The radiation treatment was two-fold - one concentrated on the area containing the tumor, the other was a less potent radiation treatment used over a large area of his body. After the tumor was under control, the doctor removed it during surgery.

"Between the radiation and surgery, the doctor was able to remove all of the tumor.

Only through the miracles of science and medicine can Will now go on to lead a full and healthy life," said Lynn Grassell, his mother.

After such an ordeal, the Make-a-Wish Foundation decided that Will deserved a chance of a lifetime - have his one most-wanted wish granted.

The boy wanted to see "Top Gun", a naval aviator's course which is now located in Fallon, Nevada. Will hopes to be a fighter pilot when he grows up and wanted to get a jump-start on the competition.

The Wyoming chapter of the Make-a-Wish Foundation contacted Chief Petty Officer Kurt Kalbfleisch at Fleet Combat Training Center in Point Loma, CA in mid-July.

Kalbfleisch contacted the public affairs office at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, early October.

In late November, the plan was set - Will would fly in a Cobra.

The Grassell's arrived in San Diego Jan. 15 and began what Lynn Grassell said was their first family vacation in about two years.

January 16 the family visited MCAS Miramar and toured the base to include the flightline.

Will was issued mock gear including a flightsuit, name patch with his call sign "Grass", and a helmet.

An FA-18 Hornet pilot led the family out to a jet and showed them around the aircraft.

Afterward, they went into the flight simulator and allowed Will to fly the plane for a while.

"He asked a lot of questions while in the simulator, including whether or not he could blow up the air station," said Kalbfleisch.

"During the flight, Will toured all of San Diego and MCAS Miramar. The simulated aircraft was then loaded with rockets and Will blew up the air station several times."

The next day Will and his family trekked to Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton,



**Major Scott Cauthen, pilot, HMT 303, walks in-step with William Grassell. The Make-a-Wish foundation arranged for Will to ride in the front seat of a Cobra.**

Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 303. The family met the squadron's commanding and executive officers and cobra pilot, Maj. Scott Cauthen, operations officer, HMT-303. Cauthen presented Will with an authentic flightsuit and HMT-303 patches. With Will's three sisters running around the room, Cauthen quickly briefed the family on what was planned for the day and whisked them to the flight simulator.

Will, speaking very sparingly, entered the simulator - which is used to train for flying in the front seat of the Cobra. Accompanying him was Capt. Christopher Oballe, an instructor at HMT-303. In the simulator used to train for the backseat, Cauthen accompanied Chopper, Will's father. Chopper was given the opportunity to control the helicopter while Will fired missiles at various targets, including the air station.

From the simulator, the Grassell's were taken back to HMT-303 and enjoyed a lunch consisting of burgers and fries. While eating, Cauthen explained that for Will his call sign was "Beaker", "Jaguar" to everyone else, and Will's was "Rocket." During this brief, Cauthen asked Will questions and started to get him talking, something Will had done very little of after his arrival.

Will received his helmet for the day, and the entire family was off to see the Cobra that Will would fly. The family moved back as Will was placed in the aircraft and snugly fastened down. With all the pre-flight



procedures complete, the helicopter was off and Will's big adventure began.

During what Cauthen would later call "one of the greatest flight opportunities" of his life - the Cobra was guided to the empty field on Vandegrift Blvd.

Here, Cauthen masterfully glided the Cobra close to the ground performing several different fly-bys. One showed the side of the cockpit so Will could excitedly wave to his family. During this time, Lynn and Chopper were kept in radio contact with Will.

While trying to talk with Will, Chopper was cut short by Will with "hold on Dad, we've got to land right now!"

With this Chopper was prompted to say, "it may not seem like it now, but we're going to hear about this every night for the next six months."

The remainder of the flight, during which Will became quite talkative, said Cauthen, took Will all over Pendleton, including the opportunity to try and find both whales and buffalo.

With the day complete, and Will grinning from ear-to-ear, the family loaded into their white mini-van and drove off. With a tour of the USS Constellation and Disneyland still on the itinerary before flying home, the children needed all the rest they could get.

"The entire family was ecstatic about how well the day went, said Cauthen.

"This was a great opportunity for us to get back in touch with the citizens we protect and give something back to the community that supports us (Marines) unfailingly".

## Savannah Vets tour 24th MEU during Truex

**Story and photos by Sgt. Arthur Stone**  
Camp Lejeune, N.C.

**SAVANNAH, Ga.** — History met the tip of the spear recently when veterans from the local chapters of the Marine Corps League and Navy League visited the modern-day warriors of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

The 24th MEU operated from the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center here during their training in Urban Environment Exercise (TRUEX).

Col. Richard P. Mills, a Huntington, NY native and commanding officer of the unit gave the 10 veterans a brief on the MEU's capabilities and assets before they went to see a static display of Medium Helicopter Squadron 266 aircraft. Capt. Jimmy J. Brown and 1st Lt. Robert P. Randazzo, both pilots, escorted the veterans around the aircraft and gave them a rundown of the controls and capabilities of the CH-53E Super Stallions, CH-46E Sea Knights, UH-1N Hueys and AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters. Maintenance crewmen Sgt. Shawn Angell of Denver and Cpl. Craig N. Charbonneau of Oklahoma City talked to the visitors about the maintenance of the aircraft.

The MEU's Maritime Special Purpose Force, the combat element which conducts special training missions during deployments, also set up a static display for the former Marines and Sailors.

Gunnery Sgt. William D. Bates, Staff Sgt. James C. Hypes, and Sgt. James N. Arrasmith, all reconnaissance Marines, displayed the weapons and equipment used by the MSPF during raids and special missions. These included the M-40 sniper rifle and the M-4 carbine rifle.

"I think it was outstanding. No question about it," said Ray P. Cuthbertson of Savannah. "The Marines do a hell of a job. We really appreciate what they are doing. We need you, so keep it up!"



**A. Harrell Roberts of the Savannah, Ga., Marine Corps League Detachment gets a quick lesson on the AH-1W Super Cobra's targeting systems from Capt. Brown.**



**A CH-46E Sea Knight from HMM-266 flies low over the city of Savannah, Ga. during a daytime raid at TRUEX XXXIX.**



**Gunnery Sgt. Bates explains various features of the M-4 Carbine.**



# Quantico Marine Band Jazzin' Up N'awlins

**Story and photos by Sgt. Jason Blair**  
MCB Quantico, Va.

**NEW ORLEANS** — It is barely mid-morning and already the fog has lifted, leaving the sun to blaze down on a cloudless sky. The day seems to shimmer as the heat from the surrounding canals slowly rises. For 35 Marines, a well-deserved reprieve from Quantico's ice cold temperatures began on a good note. The Corps was coming to Mardi Gras!



**Quantico's Marine Band marched down Gause Blvd. in Slidell, La., during the Krewe of Dionysus Mardi Gras parade, which was almost six miles long. There are more than 70 parades in the 40-day celebration, which starts twelve days after Christmas and culminates with 'Fat Tuesday'.**

The celebration leading to Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, begins on the Twelfth Night, or Jan. 6, twelve days after Christmas, and has been around in different forms for more than 300 years. Modern Mardi Gras is actually the final (and most festive) day of the Carnival season. It was probably best that Quantico's Marines arrived before the serious partying began.

As the band marched by, cries of 'Semper Fi' and 'ooh-rah' can be heard coming from the crowd. Cheers, smiles, stamping feet and clapping hands

become the norm as the impatience and tiredness of waiting for the parade to begin are forgotten.

The band's drum major, Gunnery Sgt. Mat Boatright, said this trip and others like it, are the reason these Marines joined the Corps, and the band.

"Traveling sends everyone's morale through the ceiling," said Boatright, a 12-year veteran. "We're doing what we like to do. The Marines want to play and they want to play for somebody.

using the carnival's festivities to help support various local and statewide charities.

One band member was able to enjoy the trip just a bit differently than the other Marines. He had inside information.

"I'm from New Orleans," said Lance Cpl. Christian Barrelle, saxophonist and native of Slidell, Louisiana, home of one Mardi Gras parade. "We used to do all the parades with my high school marching band. The one we're doing on Sunday, Dionysus, I've done five or six times."

It seemed all of Slidell was alongside its streets and boulevards and when the band reached the reviewing stand, Slidell's leadership was there to thank the Marines.

"We're proud to have the Marines here," said Charles Spizale, reviewing stand emcee and Krewe of Alla member for more than 16 years. "The people love 'em."

Spizale said many in the Slidell community know of Christian Barrelle who joined the Marines. "We're really proud of that," he said. "We wanted to award the Marines a plaque to show our appreciation for their participation in our parade."

With her hazel eyes sparkling, June Barrelle, Christian's mother, was nothing but smiles.

"When Christian was first assigned to Quantico we were really disappointed because New Orleans wasn't on the band calendar," said June. "But when that changed and we knew he was coming to march in his hometown parade we told everyone. The first time he marched in this parade he was in junior high and now here he is in the Marine Corps, playing his saxophone and marching in the very same parade."

Because of the band's location in the parades, and the excitement of New Orleans crowds, Marines from Marine

New Orleans is the place to do it.

"The first parade was for the Krewe of Alla and this was the first time they had Marines in their parade," said Boatright.

Alla is also the largest day-time parade, with more than 500 members. The second parade was the Krewe of Dionysus, which is the largest all-men's carnival organization on the North Shore. Alla was approximately five miles long and Dionysus six.

Krewes are made up of various private clubs and organizations, many





Forces Reserves, New Orleans provided parade escort service.

"We're pretty much security for the band," said Sgt. Kyle Cunningham, contract specialist and a member of Alpha detail, the band's escort. "The six of us keep the crowd out of the band's hair. It wasn't too bad because the crowd respects the uniform. I like it because a lot of times you'll hear people in the crowd saying things like, 'Semper Fi' and 'ooh-rah.' That's cool because it shows the respect. A lot of the older people get really excited when they see us. Well, I mean ... the band. I like that."

Another Marine along for the trip came from Quantico's Headquarters and Service Battalion. Second Lt. Jamie Fox, executive officer, Operations Company, spent both days as parade escort.

"As I marched behind the band, I felt a strong sense of pride and respect," said Fox. "They work when most of us are off. That's pretty tough, but all I sense from these folks is positive energy."



**Corporals Kimberly Bonham and Victor Robinson practiced playing their tubas before their first Mardi Gras parade during President's Day weekend.**

"Professionally I looked forward to the challenge of a demanding parade," said CWO-2 Patricia Brown, band conductor. "To see them rise to the occasion and get it done - that's what the band does, public relations with the community. We're often not seen at our own command but we're the ones who go out and touch the American public."

"Another aspect was getting out in town and seeing those live jazz bands," added Brown. "I enjoyed that and I hope that the band did too. It was really nice to go out and sit down listening to a live band play, especially since this is the birthplace of jazz."

Sergeant Dennis Weaver, Section Leader, Saxophone Section, agreed.

"I love jazz," grinned Weaver. "The whole spirit of the trip was great. I woke up every morning to the clock radio in our room and there was local music, horns and jazz, and vocals and things we don't hear in other cities."

Corporal Andrae Alexander, pianist, along with every other band member, said that he thought the atmosphere was excellent too, but mostly because he was part of it.

"I sat in with a band at the Palm Court Jazz Cafe on Decatur, right off Bourbon Street," said Alexander. "I can't remember all the names of the guys but I played with members of Harry Belafonte's band, Ray Charles' drummer and a whole bunch of other famous guys. It was awesome, because these are people you see on TV or hear on disc and I was right there, jammin' with them. They also made sure we called it N'awlins. They wanted to make sure we got that right."

Alexander also wanted everyone to understand, as many watching the parades know, that the Marine Corps is number one.

"The Marines are always first in the parades because we're the best," smiled Alexander, his huge grin spreading from ear to ear. "I heard one of the women watching the parade say, 'Yeah, these are the Marines. This is the band that all the rest of the bands are trying to look like.'"



**Sergeant Daniel Chartier took part in the New Orleans nightlife, singing in one of the French Quarter's many night spots. Everyone in the band took advantage of the New Orleans' jazz atmosphere. Some even played with a live band.**

# Personal Use of Travel Benefits Prohibited

**Story by Sgt. Robert J. Angus**  
MCB Camp Butler, Japan

Pacific Area Counsel Office officials here recently warned Department of Defense employees against personal use of benefits gained from official travel.

The warning comes after a Senior Executive Service official in Washington D.C. was prosecuted and pleaded guilty to redeeming travel benefits from his official travel for 20 tickets for personal use by himself and his family, according to Maj. Carlos P. Kizzee, deputy director, PACO, Marine Corps Bases Japan. The official paid \$10,824 in restitution, a \$1,000 fine, and was ordered to serve 200 hours of community service. The official was decertified from the SES and immediately retired.

“Currently, under federal law, official government travelers are not authorized to use frequent flier mileage, upgrades and other travel benefits from official travel while in an unofficial travel status,” Kizzee said. “There is a legislative amendment pending in Congress that would allow official travelers to use their accrued official benefits on personal travel, but that action is still a legislative proposal and therefore does not authorize official travelers to use mileage and other travel benefits received in official travel for personal travel.”

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**“Those benefits received as a result of official travel belong to the government, and will remain so until this legislation is passed”**

— Maj Carlos P. Kizzee  
Deputy Director, PACO

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While it may be possible to accrue official mileage for future unofficial use pending the passage of this legislative action, anything of value that travelers receive as a direct result of travel at the government’s expense belongs to the government, according to Kizzee.

“Those benefits received as a result of official travel belong to the government, and will remain so until this legislation is passed,” he said. “Even if the legislation is passed, it may take some time before DoD implements the changes.”

Though these benefits are not authorized for personal travel, they may be used to offset the cost of future official travel.

“Some travel benefits that may be used for official purposes like upgrades for example,” Kizzee said. “Being bumped up from coach to business class may be accepted as long as this same benefit is generally available to the public. But you can’t accept an upgrade to first class.

“There are some things to keep in mind when using upgrades,” Kizzee said.

“Though you can accept this upgrade to business class, you can’t solicit it, you can’t accept it if offered due to rank or position and you can’t accept it while traveling in uniform.”

Another situation where travelers may be able to use benefits of official travel involves overbooked flights, according to Kizzee.

“If you are ‘bumped’ due to carrier overbooking, the benefit provided by the airline may or may not belong to you depending on the situation,” he said. “If a traveler is involuntarily bumped from a flight, all benefits belong to the government and the traveler remains on the government mission. If someone is voluntarily bumped from a flight, all benefits belong to the traveler and the traveler is on his or her own time.

“In this case, while travelers are waiting for the next available flight, no per diem is paid and the person is technically on leave,” Kizzee said. “Most importantly, travelers are not authorized to volunteer to be bumped if doing so affects the mission of their trip.”

For more information related to the use of official travel benefits, personnel may refer to DoD Joint Ethics Regulation 5500.7R.





## **Multilingual Marines asked to Speak Up**

### **Interpreter MOS Offers Extra Money, College Credit and a Chance to Travel**

**Story by Cpl. David Christian**  
1st Force Service Support Group

In 1996, the Marine Corps added Military Occupational Specialty 8611 (Interpreter) to aid foreign missions.

Since then, Marines proficient in certain languages sometimes have been called upon to function as interpreters.

The new MOS allows the Marine Corps to track multilingual Marines and more effectively use their skills. The Marine Corps has more than 500 qualified interpreters of 36 languages.

Marines, from privates to master gunnery sergeants, may apply if they are proficient in a qualifying language and are in any MOS except the 0200 or 2600 fields. The Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) measures their language proficiency.

Qualifying languages change yearly

depending on the needs of the Corps.

Nine languages that now qualify are Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian-Farsi and Serbo-Croatian.

Marines proficient in other languages are highly encouraged to take the DLPT. Any Marine assigned as an interpreter or translator may be eligible to receive Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP) — as much as \$125 per month for each qualifying language. Additionally, Marines can earn up to 36 college credit-hours based on their performance on the DLPT.

As an interpreter, a Marine primarily would interpret for nonintelligence-related functions during contingencies, operations and exercises.

Occasionally, 8611's may need to interpret during interrogations for Marine Corps counterintelligence and interrogator-translator

personnel.

Interpreters sometimes get to travel to exotic places.

"I'm exposed to foreign cultures, and the extra money each month comes in handy," said Master Sgt. Jerry A. Rawlins, Human Intelligence Chief, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Interpreters would have come in handy nine or ten years ago, he added.

"During Desert Storm and in Somalia, in 1991 and 1992, we didn't have enough Arabic or Somali interpreters to support the needs of the Marine Corps," Rawlins said. "We had to contract with foreign nationals to provide interpretation, but ideally, we prefer to rely on Marines to get the job done."

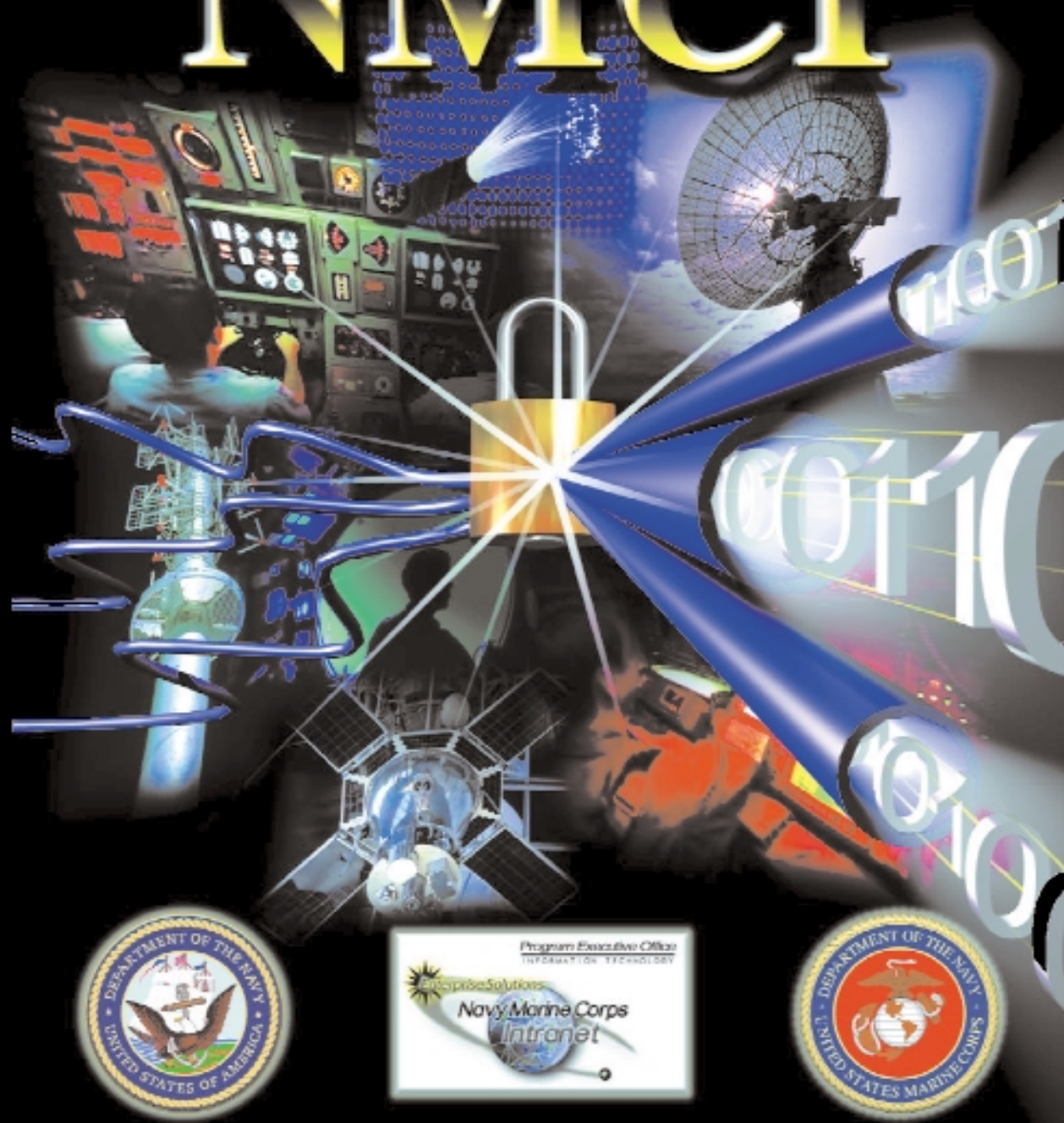
For more information, see MarAdmin 372/00.

COUNTRY	BILLET DESCRIPTION	GRADE REQUIRED	MOS REQUIRED	LANGUAGE REQUIRED
BOLIVIA	RIVERINE PLANS OFFICER	CAPT	0302	SPANISH
COLOMBIA	RIVERINE PLANS OFFICER	CAPT	0302	SPANISH
COLOMBIA	LOGISTICS OFFICER	CW02 / CAPT	04XX	SPANISH
HONDURAS	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	J-5	0107	NONE
IQUITOS, PERU	RIVERINE SUPPORT TEAM OIC	MAJ	0302	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	JOINT PERUVIAN RIVERINE TRAINING CENTER SNCOIC	MSGT	0369	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	WEAPONS/TACTICS INSTRUCTOR	SSGT	0369	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	SUPPORT TEAM OIC	MAJ	0302	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	SUPPLY/ADMIN NCO	SGT	3043	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	SUPPORT TEAM ADMIN NCO	CPL / SGT	0151	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	LOGISTICS OIC	CAPT	30XX	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	LOGISTICS/WAREHOUSE CHIEF	MSGT	3043	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	WAREHOUSE NCO	SGT	3051	SPANISH
LIMA, PERU	DISBURSING AGENT	GYSGT	34XX	NONE
IQUITOS, PERU	RIVERINE SUPPORT TEAM COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	SGT / SSGT	2861	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	RIVERINE SUPPORT TEAM COXSWAIN	SGT / SSGT	8112	SPANISH
IQUITOS, PERU	CONTRACTING AGENT	SSGT / CAPT	3044	SPANISH
LIMA, PERU	RIVERINE PLANNER	MAJ	0302	SPANISH

# Navy and Marine Corps Network Through NMCI

INFORMATION SECURITY

# NMCI





**Lance Cpl. John Lawson, III**  
Marine Corps News, HQMC

**W**hen Marines are in garrison, there's a lot of talk about using techniques that are successful in the private sector.

Now, thanks to the Navy Marine Corps Intranet, those who rely on information technology won't have to spend so much time trying to study and copy the private sector.

Why?

Because the private sector will directly manage the hardware, software, and network administration for the non-tactical side of the Marine Corps and the Navy.

It's a big task. To make it happen, the Department of the Navy has signed a five-year contract with Electronic Data Systems.

The deal, worth \$6.9 billion, was announced on Oct. 6, 2000, and movement toward change is already under way. The Department of the Navy expects to complete the switch to NMCI by December of 2003.

The idea, according to planners with the Department of the Navy, is to provide a single, integrated, coherent network that can be used throughout the Marine Corps and the Navy.

With one big network, Marines and Sailors can say goodbye to the numerous shore-based data networks that currently complicate the use and sharing of information.

For example, suppose a sergeant has isolated a problem with a carrier-based F/A-18 Hornet's radar. If he needs a component that isn't available on-board or elsewhere in the battle group, he can use NMCI to search a comprehensive, worldwide supply base. Then he can order the part in the most expeditious way available. Thanks to NMCI, the entire search, as well as the order, can take place in one computer transaction.

Replacing lots of little networks with a single, comprehensive one naturally makes it easier to capitalize on available information, NMCI planners say.

"The consolidation of scores of separately purchased and maintained systems will yield valuable short-term gains in economy, efficiency, and security," said Richard Danzig, Secretary of the Navy, in a news release.

These gains, while impressive, are "dwarfed" by the flexibility and growth potential of the new Intranet, Danzig continued.

Growth potential and the rapid rate of progress are crucial factors favoring EDS and

the new Intranet, according to Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps. If the Navy and Marines tried to go it alone, they would end up losing pace with technology, he said.

Danzig likens the new Intranet contract to a deal with a long distance service or a water plant. The Marine Corps and the Navy will be "buying information conveyance as though it were a utility, like electricity," Danzig said.

The deal "transcends our often-cumbersome procurement techniques and links us to the rapidly evolving private sector," he continued.

Change is rarely easy, and when computers are involved, change can be particularly challenging. Consequently, Danzig has acknowledged that Marines and sailors will have to overcome some obstacles.

"There are legitimate objections and inherent difficulties in what we are trying to do," he said. Nevertheless, the Marine Corps and the Navy must go forward, he continued, "because we cannot stand still."

A recent briefing at Headquarters Marine Corps gave many Marines and Marine civilians a look at what NMCI will bring.

Lt. Col. Mark Dalla Betta, NMCI liaison, told an audience of approximately 250 that staying on the wave of progress necessitates this dramatic change. He also added, "if the Corps sticks with the status quo, we can't get where EDS will take us."

As with anything, the new deal has boundaries. Available funding for the new contract will enable the Marine Corps to purchase approximately 70,000 "seats."

Each unclassified "seat" comes with two user accounts, and each classified "seat" comes with five user accounts. The Marine Corps will have more than 140,000 user accounts at its disposal.

A "seat," simply stated, is a computer. Each computer is replete with software, and each computer has access to a help desk and all necessary technical support for the network.

All the user has to do is sit down, log in, and go to work.

By way of illustration, a sergeant requiring one Marine to use a computer by day and another Marine to use a computer by night could get by with one seat. That's because the two Marines — each having his own account and a different work schedule — could use the same work station.

Things get a little trickier when a lot of Marines need computers at the same time.

Suppose a major needs 24 Marines working on computers simultaneously. Twelve seats would provide a sufficient number of accounts, but only 12 computers. Consequently, that major would need 24 seats to keep all 24 Marines working on computers at the same time.

Also, there are different types of seats, and each type has varying degrees of capability. A computer's speed, memory, capacity to save files, and so forth hinge on the type of seat that has been purchased. Naturally, the more powerful seats are more expensive.

As is the case with any resource, Lt. Col. Dalla Betta said, those in charge must be wise as they allocate seats. They need to pull more seats out of fixed dollars by making sure there are no extra computers going unused and by making sure that people don't have more powerful seats than they need.

Another hurdle the Corps must handle is working with the approximately 70,000 "seats" that can be purchased. That number leaves a gap to fill, because the Corps currently has 87,000 computers in its inventory.

Roughly speaking, the change from the status quo to NMCI will occur in three phases.

First, EDS will assess individual work sites and the way they handle their tasks.

Next, EDS will develop detailed plans and start operating the individual networks on an "as is" basis.

Finally, EDS will make the jump from the existing Marine Corps Enterprise Network to the new Intranet.

Once EDS is delivering computer service, they will be responsible for all repairs and service. Their contract is structured so they get more money for meeting or beating expectations and less money for falling short of expectations.

In his concluding remarks, Lt. Col. Dalla Betta noted that NMCI seems expensive when it's compared to current spending levels for the existing Marine Corps Enterprise Network. However, the Corps must think about the future, when technological progress will render the status quo obsolete.

That's where NMCI pays off, Lt. Col. Dalla Betta said. "We have to change the way we think."

For more information on NMCI or EDS, visit [www.cio.usmc.mil/C4](http://www.cio.usmc.mil/C4); [www.peo-it.navy.mil](http://www.peo-it.navy.mil) and [www.eds.com/NMCI](http://www.eds.com/NMCI).

# Marines Exploit Unique Training Opportunity in Latin America

By Staff Sgt. Chuck Albrecht  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South

In the remote, steamy jungles of the Amazon River Basin, 240 miles south of the equator, a small, U.S. Marine-led team is taking advantage of the unique riverine training environment presented, by advising and instructing their host nation counterparts at Nanay Naval Base, Iquitos, Peru.

Requested by the Peruvian National Government, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South, provides a nine- to 12-man Riverine Support Team (RST) to train Peruvian naval and law enforcement personnel in conventional riverine operations. The Marines are reservists who rotate in and out of the unit every four to six months.

"The Riverine Support Team provides the Government of Peru the capacity to train their police and naval forces in conventional riverine tactics, techniques and procedures," said Master Sgt. Nelson

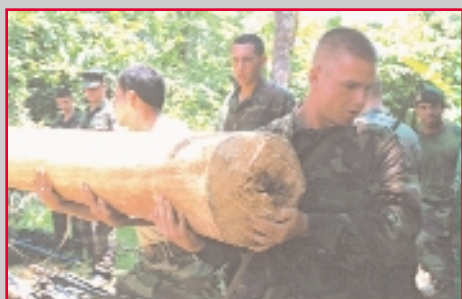


Torres, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the RST. "The curriculum that was developed by the RST, and that now is being taught by Peruvian instructors includes: tactics and planning for riverine operations, maritime law enforcement, maintenance and maintenance management, outboard engine repair, fiberglass repair, marksmanship, first aid and field medicine, land navigation, and of course, riverine navigation."

Members of the RST serve an average of 180 days on Temporary Additional Duty (TAD) status, are qualified Spanish speakers, and possess specialized skills in a wide array of areas in order to best support the training. The RST accompanies the host nation students and instructors throughout all training evolutions and periods of instruction. According to Torres, the desired end-state is to provide the Peruvian National



(Above) A Peruvian boat crew cautiously approaches a much larger vessel in preparation for a possible boarding during a capabilities demonstration. By graduation from the Joint Peruvian Riverine Training Center, the boat crews are fully trained in Peruvian maritime law.



(Left) After stripping a tree trunk of its bark, Lance Cpl. John Karayusus, of Pittsburg, Pa., helps carry it to the water before building a raft. Karayusus is with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment.





**Marines on deployment from Camp Lejeune construct wooden rafts under the supervision of Peruvian Sailors. The Marines belong to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment.**

Government with a capability to train and sustain its own military and law enforcement personnel in riverine operations by early 2002.

The riverine training takes place at the Joint Peruvian Riverine Training Center (JPRTC) on Nanay Naval Base in Iquitos, Peru, a port city ideally located along the Amazon River.

Since its inception in 1998, more than 500 students have graduated the 15-week course, which is broken down into five phases.

In the first phase of training, students study human rights, first aid, weapons marksmanship, communications, and land navigation.

Phase II focuses on specialized training for individual students in the areas of ground tactics, maritime law enforcement, coxswain skills, riverine operations, boat maintenance, and fiberglass repair as well as advanced first aid and field medical training.

During Phase III, the students train together, giving them an opportunity to unite and exercise their specialized training.

In Phase IV, students cross-train in each different specialty. The students are evaluated and certified in Phase V.

Learning centers around Mako, Boston Whaler and Northport patrol boats, the primary tools of the riverine program. Each craft is equipped with state-of-the-art marine communications and navigation systems, dual 150hp outboard motors and machinegun mounts.

Combine nearly impenetrable jungles in the east, with 7,000 miles of inland waterways and Latin culture, and Peru provides the U.S. Marines assigned to the RST an invaluable training opportunity.

“The Amazon is a pure riverine and jungle environment as opposed to Camp Lejeune. The advantage is that there are little to no restrictions on training,” explained Lt. Col. Albert Estrada, RST officer-in-charge. “The ability to speak Spanish gives us tremendous credibility with the Peruvians and is an opportunity for us to perfect our Spanish in a unique training environment.”



**Lance Cpl. Michael Hollinger, of Alton, IL., practices raft lashing under the watchful eye of a Peruvian instructor. Hollinger is assigned to Camp Lejeune's Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment.**



**Lt. Col. Michael Pierce, the former officer-in-charge of the U.S.-led Riverine Support Team and Maj. Gen. Thomas Braaten, Commander of Marine Corps Air Bases Eastern Area, pass out certificates of completion to the newly graduated Peruvian riverine unit.**

# 15th MEU Takes TRUEX to L.A.

## 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit Public Affairs Office

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. - A detachment of Marines and Sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted Training in an Urban Environment (TRUE) April 2 - 20 at various private and federal locations in the greater Los Angeles area.

Since three quarters of the world's population live in urban environments, Marines and Sailors proficient fighting in a wide variety of urban settings. The lights and skyscrapers of metropolitan Los Angeles afforded these Marines the opportunity to hone special skills required to operate in this unique environment.

"The exercise was vital to the MSPF (Maritime Special Purpose Force)," said Sgt. T. Ryan Sparks, a 26-year-old reconnaissance scout with the Force Reconnaissance platoon and San Diego native. "We saw a lot of different building structures and room setups. There is only so much we can do in the buildings we have on Camp Pendleton."

The MEU's Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF) is the core element that conducts select, maritime special operations missions. The force is comprised of a Force reconnaissance platoon, an infantry security platoon, battalion reconnaissance Marines, scout snipers, and special detachments from the MEU's command element and MEU Service Support Group.

Detailed coordination between all elements of the force, the command element and the aviation combat element is essential to MSPF missions.

The MEU's battle staff used a hangar here as its command post throughout the exercise which simulated the Landing Force Operations Center (LFOC) aboard ship. Detailed planning and preparation for each "mission" was conducted there.

The MEU's Forward Command Element (FCE) "deployed" to an off-base facility that simulated an American embassy in the scenario's country. The FCE facilitated information between the embassy and the LFOC, receiving



Photo by Corporal Joseph R. Chenelly

**USNS TIPPECANOE - Corporal Mark A. Tully, a reconnaissance scout with the MEU's MSPF uses a forklift to clear a "fouled" flight deck. The force must clear the flight deck before helicopters can land for their extract.**



Photo by Corporal Joseph R. Chenelly

**USNS TIPPECANOE - A Marine with the MEU's MSPF takes cover behind a crate while securing the flight deck during a Visit, Board, Search and Seizure exercise.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel C. Hottle

**HMM-163 aircrews flew low-altitude missions over Los Angeles to practice using key urban terrain features as navigation aids.**





Photo by Corporal Joseph R. Chenelly

**USNS TIPPECANOE - Force Reconnaissance Marines with the MEU's MSPF assemble outside the ship's bridge after successfully seizing control of the ship during a Visit, Board, Search and Seizure exercise.**

realistic training while interacting with former embassy representatives.

During TRUE, the MSPF conducted three direct action exercises; several Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) exercises aboard vessels in Long Beach and San Diego; and a Gas/Oil Platform exercise at Seal Beach. The force had not visited any of the sites previously.

"The last hit (a direct action mission) was especially challenging," said Sparks. "There were multiple buildings we had to deal with. Aggressors were outside and inside. It was the first time we faced something of that scale."

Marine helicopter pilots practiced urban flying and navigation techniques, using urban terrain features as navigation tools.

"It is very rare for us to get the chance to fly low over real urban areas," Sgt. Randy S. Chabot, a 25-year-old CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter crew chief and a native of Turner, Maine, said. "This exercise will have lasting value for all of us."

The training assists Marines and Sailors in preparation for a number of maritime and civic action missions, such as those conducted following earthquakes in Turkey, volcanic eruptions in the Philippines, and devastating typhoons in Bangladesh. The MEU must be able to accomplish such actions during an upcoming deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf regions.

"This exercise is about as close as it gets to the real thing," Chabot declared.

TRUE exercises have been conducted in various cities since 1985, including San Diego, San Francisco and Phoenix. These cities offer urban training not available at Marine installations.



Photo by Corporal Joseph R. Chenelly

**USNS TIPPECANOE - Navy SEALs prepare to board the ship while training alongside the MEU's MSPF during a Visit, Board, Search and Seizure exercise here. The exercise was part of the MEU's TRUE exercise.**



Photo by Corporal Joseph R. Chenelly

**USNS TIPPECANOE - A Marine with the MEU's MSPF secures a catwalk on the ship during the Visit, Board, Search and Seizure exercise. The MSPF conducted three direct action exercises in the Los Angeles area; several ship Visit, Board, Search and Seizure exercises aboard vessels in San Diego and Long Beach; and a Gas/Oil Platform exercise at Seal Beach during TRUE.**

# Marine Works Toward National Lifting

Story and photo by Sgt. Jason Blair  
MCB Quantico, VA



**Gunnery Sgt. James Coleman, Security Forces Monitor, switched from bodybuilding to powerlifting. His ultimate goal is to make the national powerlifting team and he hopes powerlifting will be added to the Olympics in the future.**

With a wife and three kids, the idea that Gunnery Sgt. James Coleman spends four hundred dollars a month on groceries isn't so unusual. What might raise eyebrows, though; that's what he spends on food just for himself.

"Weightlifting is a life style," said Coleman, Security Forces Monitor, Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments Branch 85. "I eat, sleep and do everything for the Corps, my workouts and my family, and not necessarily in that order."

Coleman smiled and his green eyes flashed.

"I wouldn't be here without my wife. She's gone to the gym with me, she's seen what I do and she understands what I'm going through. It took a while but now she completely supports me. It's tough enough to be a Marine's spouse but the spouse of a Marine in a competition sport ... like I said, I couldn't be here without her."

Coleman was born near Quantico, in Federalsburg, MD, as was his hometown high-school sweetheart and wife of 15-years. Patti Coleman said she knew what she was getting into.

"I knew this was part of him before we were married but it was hard at first," she said. "He's been gone a lot and it takes a lot of time but we've changed our lifestyle to fit with his and now it works.

We all support him."

Patti added that the children love what Dad can do in the gym but at the dinner table, sometimes the menu leaves a bit to be desired.

"I know 101 ways to make chicken but by now the kids are a little bit tired of it," laughed Patti. "It's amazing how much we spend and how much he eats. Whenever there's a sale on yogurt or chicken, he's there."

With the help of his diet, his family and his discipline, Coleman can dedicate himself to his sport and maintaining his 5-foot 7-inch, 200-pound frame. With the help of his partner, he can dedicate himself to the weights.

"I have a partner, but we push each other, not the weight. I picked powerlifting because it's an independent sport," said Coleman. "When I lose it's because I didn't train hard enough to win. When I win, I know why - me. I really like that."

Coleman also said weightlifting has been a life style.

"I've lifted weights my entire life," explained Coleman. "At first, I knew very little. I'm from a small town and we didn't have much. All we did was work. I didn't get competitive until I came into the Corps. I was lucky because I had a mentor. A gunny I knew took me under his wing. He helped me to train, to eat right, he showed me everything I needed to know to be a competitive bodybuilder."

Even though Coleman has mainly been a competitive bodybuilder, he's switching to powerlifting. He likes the look of strength, but especially likes the feel of true power.

"I've always liked lifting heavy weights," said Coleman. "I like to see other people lift heavy weights. It motivates me. I've seen a lot of guys who look good, they look big, but they're not really strong. It's like having a '72 Super Sport Chevelle with a v-four. That's silly. I'd like to be as strong as I look."

Another reason for Coleman's move to powerlifting is he prefers to compete without music.

"I need to compete," grinned Coleman.

"I love it, but in bodybuilding, it's about your size, your cut and your posing to music. I like Metallica or Korn and although I hit poses to the beat I have no rhythm. Most of these guys are really graceful. To win a show you have to win a crowd. With two left legs, my chances for grace are pretty slim."

Coleman also feels the Corps has much in common with his choice in sports.

"Powerlifting and the Marine Corps have many similarities," he said. "It's easy to get by in the Corps but if you want to step up, you've got to do more. It's the same for lifting. You can get by with doing the basics but to be competitive you've got to train competitively and consistently. You've got to constantly push yourself."

Coleman added that the Corps has been there for him, as long as he's there for it. Sometimes though, the runs during physical training are pretty tough.

"My command supports me but I'm not asking for special treatment," said Coleman. "As long as my work gets done, they're okay with it. They joke about it, but it's good here. I also make sure that I'm always ready for any PFT. Pull-ups and crunches are a joke but the run always kills me. I'm happy with a 280."

With all that, his family, the Corps and the many other things that make up a Marine's life, Coleman still has his sites set on one Herculean goal.

"I want to make the national powerlifting team. My next event is a powerlifting and bench press competition. The top two in each class go to the World Games in Puerto Rico. From there, hopefully they'll make a team to introduce powerlifting to the Olympics. That's what I want."

Because of what Marines have done for him, in the Corps and as a bodybuilder, Coleman wants to return the favor. And if you're a Marine, it won't cost you.

"Sometimes I do a little bit of personal training but I don't charge Marines," said Coleman. "Marines taught me what I know and I think I should give back to Marines. I like helping people. That's



# Marine Lauded For Chasing Off Assaulters



**He didn't know the situation behind the violence and was concerned about dealing with the aggressors, but he knew he had to help the victim.**

**Story by Cpl. Matthew Shaw**  
MCB Camp Pendleton, CA

It was nearly midnight Sept. 23, 2000 when Lance Cpl. Christian Villegas, a personnel clerk with 1st Marine Division, was driving to his family's house in Calexico, Calif.

His wife and younger brother were returning home with him after dropping off some friends. As they were driving along, his wife noticed something odd.

"My wife pointed out some guys jumping on this other guy," Villegas said. "They were beating his head in."

Initially, Villegas was shocked. He didn't know the situation behind the violence and was concerned about dealing with the aggressors, but he knew he had to help the victim.

"I didn't know who the guy was. I still don't know," he said. "In these situations, you don't really think a lot. You just react."

Brown-haired, brown-eyed Villegas steered his vehicle toward the melee and sounded his horn. The assailants fled when he pulled up near the victim. His wife and brother stopped traffic, enabling Villegas to get to the victim.

"I thought he was dead, and my wife was crying," he said. "There was blood all over his head. I rolled him on his side and blood spilled out of his mouth."

Villegas said boot camp first-aid training came in handy.

"Start the breathing, stop the bleeding," he said. "I had a basic idea of what I was doing, but I'm no doctor. I just wanted to help the guy."

After clearing blood from the victim's mouth, Villegas performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The victim then began breathing on his own.

"I kept talking to him," Villegas said. "Once he started breathing, I ran to some nearby houses and called an ambulance."

"When the police got there and saw the blood on my hands, I thought they might think I was involved in beating the guy."

However, when Officer Patrick Estrada, Calexico Police Department, arrived on the scene, he realized

Villegas was there to help.

After Villegas explained the situation, he told the officer he was a Marine visiting family over a long weekend.

"Unfortunately, this type of thing happens a lot nowadays," Estrada said. "To me, it's just awesome that a 19-year-old Marine would stop to help the guy out. You know, a lot of people probably drove past it and just covered their eyes."

The officer, impressed with Villegas' actions, wrote a letter of appreciation, noting that without his efforts, the victim would have died.

"There were no body shots on the victim — all head shots," Estrada said. "The gangsters were obviously trying to kill him."

When the officer's chief heard about the incident, he decided rather than sending a letter of appreciation, a formal document would be submitted to the Marine's command.

Word of Villegas' heroics was no surprise to his superiors.

"When Lance Cpl. Villegas arrived here in the beginning of June, he hit the deck running," said Staff Sgt. Rolandus Branch, 1st Marine Division personnel staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "He's the kind of Marine who gets involved. It was very believable when we heard about what he did."

Villegas received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Nov. 22.

"It feels good, knowing I saved someone's life, but I didn't expect to get an award from it," Villegas said. "I've been through situations where three or four guys have tried to take my stuff — maybe that's what happened to this guy. I just wanted to help."

"It is truly rewarding to see an outstanding Marine recognized for such an act of heroism," said Chief Warrant Officer-3 Malcolm Wentworth, 1st Marine Division personnel officer. "His actions not only represent his character, but those of his battalion, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, and the

# Medal of Honor Recipients Embodiment of the Corps

**Lance Cpl. John Lawson, III**  
Marine Corps News, HQMC

These are the people who make us humble, and these are also the people who inspire us to be great.

No matter how high our standards, no matter how tough we think we are, these people fill us with awe.

Because we can never get enough of these people, Hollywood creates imaginary ones every so often to keep us happy.

Tom Hanks played one of these heroes in "Forrest Gump." Harrison Ford played one of these heroes in "Air Force One." Meg Ryan even got a chance to play one of these heroes in "Courage Under Fire."

When a movie's main character is a Medal of Honor recipient, audiences inevitably feel a rush of emotion and adrenaline.

But a movie is just two hours of entertainment on a Saturday night.

Real Medals of Honor have been awarded to real men (you can take that literally and figuratively) since 1863, when the nation was in the midst of the Civil War.

Since the award was created, countless Americans have gone to war, and more than a million have given their lives in defense of this land. However, fewer than 4,000 men have earned the nation's highest military award for bravery.

Not surprisingly, many of those heroes were posthumous recipients.



Official USMC photo

**Jack Lucas, a hero at age 17, receives the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman at the White House. Lucas was one of 11 Marines who received the nation's highest award during the ceremony.**

The Marine Corps sees its Medal of Honor recipients as the embodiment of the Corps' ethos. Throughout boot camp, whether in the rear of the squad bay or out at the Crucible, recruits learn lessons from their drill instructors about Marines who earned the Medal of Honor.

Walk around a Marine installation for a few minutes and you'll find a building named after a Medal of Honor recipient, or you'll find a wall with pictures and presidential citations honoring Marines who earned the award.

Medal of Honor recipients have earned a status so lofty that it borders on the mythical. It's as if they're Jedi Knights like Luke Skywalker or Obi Wan Kenobi, and you could never hope to actually meet them.

Imagine walking into a room and seeing a bunch of them, real and in person. Imagine a bunch of men milling around, each with the distinctive, light blue ribbon around his neck. Imagine them swapping tales, sipping drinks, and ribbing each other.

Well, it actually happens. It happened in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the inauguration of President George W. Bush on Jan. 20. Many recipients of the Medal of Honor - from all branches of the armed services - got together, something they are in the habit of doing annually.

To see them is to see men who go beyond your conceptions of valor.

For example, consider barrel-chested Jack Lucas, adorned in his Medal of Honor, rumbling with laughter and teasing those around him. In just that manner, Lucas was unwinding with his distinguished brethren at the Sheraton in Arlington, Va. on Jan. 19. Being on hand for a presidential inauguration was special to the recipients, but, clearly, it was more special to them to be with each other.

Seeing Jack Lucas with the medal around his neck, but not knowing how he had earned it, you might speculate on what form his bravery took. You might even wonder, "Is he the sort of Marine who would throw himself on a grenade to save his buddies?"

No, that's not a good description of Jack Lucas. To be totally accurate, Jack Lucas is the sort of Marine who would throw himself on two grenades to save his buddies.

On Feb. 20, 1945, then-Private First Class Lucas and three other Marines were ambushed on the island of Iwo Jima, and two grenades appeared right in front of them. As the citation signed by President Harry Truman states, "Private First Class Lucas unhesitatingly hurled himself over his comrades upon one grenade and pulled the other one under him, absorbing the whole blasting force of the explosions in his own body in order to shield his companions from the concussions and murderous flying fragments."

Lucas instantly found himself bleeding from more than 100 holes in his body, but the fellow Marines he saved were





Official USMC photo

**Medal of Honor recipient Jim Swett in 1943.**

able to rout the ambushing Japanese patrol.

Miraculously, a corpsman and doctors were able to save Lucas. Looking at him now, you'd never guess what he has survived. All you see is pride and a zest for a good laugh.

"I was the youngest, meanest Marine," he said during the party at the Sheraton, demonstrating a persona that is both jovial and in your face.

Lucas's age is another thing that makes him special. That day when he jumped on the two hand grenades came less than a week after his seventeenth birthday. He is the youngest Marine ever to earn the Medal of Honor. For that matter, he is the youngest recipient from any service to earn the medal in the 20th century.

Obviously, Lucas isn't the sort of person who would lie or scheme to avoid military service. He is exactly the opposite.

After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Lucas recalls, he had one thought in his mind: "I just knew I had to kill some Japanese."

Lucas may have been a patriot, but he was barely a teenager. How would someone so young get in the military?

"I lied," Lucas said with a smile on his face. And then, for mischievous good measure, he added, "I've been lying ever since!"

Fortunately for his three buddies on Iwo Jima, Lucas was big enough and mature enough to get away with his ruse. He successfully enlisted and became a not-so-tender Marine at the tender age of 14.

One thing that comes up quickly around these special men is that there are no Medal of Honor "winners." These men

are Medal of Honor recipients. The award isn't a prize waiting to be collected. Every year we know that some National Football League team will prevail in the Super Bowl and win the Vince Lombardi Trophy. We never know when we'll see the sort of heroism that the Medal of Honor recognizes.

If times are good, there will be peace, and no one will have to risk his or her life under fire. In some fights, such as the Gulf War or the invasion of Grenada, there are no Medal of Honor recipients. In others, such as World War II, there are hundreds of recipients.

Another thing to remember about Medal of Honor recipients is that, even without their special moments of exceptional valor, they still easily qualify as war heroes.

For example, consider Marine Col. Jim Swett. He earned his Medal of Honor in an engagement over the Solomon Islands. Though the Japanese planes heavily outnumbered Swett and his buddies, he shot down seven enemy aircraft before he was forced to guide his battered F-4 Wildcat into the ocean.

Set aside this dramatic episode, and Col. Swett still has eight-and-a-half kills to his credit. Set aside this dramatic episode, and Col. Swett still has experience bringing a shot-up plane to rest in the ocean.

Colonel Swett readily admits that tumbling out of the sky in a ravaged plane is frightening. "I was scared to death," he recalled. "I was kind of numb."

Just the same, once his wounds had healed, there was no question what he would do next: "I just got in a damn plane."

Colonel Swett's Medal of Honor means a lot to him. It has "totally changed my life, all for the better," he said. "Talk about goose bumps!"

Still, his successes never induced him to rest on his laurels, just as his brushes with death never induced him to take himself out of harm's way. In fact, Col. Swett stayed in the Corps as a reservist until 1970 so he could remain a fighter pilot.

Relaxing in the Sheraton's hospitality suite, Col. Swett beamed as he recalled the F-4B Phantom jet, which he flew near the end of his career.

"Oh, those airplanes were fantastic," he said. "Hell, I'd like to fly one right now."

Standing around the hotel's hospitality suite, it didn't take long to tag Lucas or Col. Swett as Marines. Lucas had the Corps' eagle, globe, and anchor on his belt buckle. Colonel Swett had the emblem on a lapel pin.

Every so often Lucas would holler across the room to a man with the Medal of Honor around his neck and a cowboy hat on his head. "Joe, take off your hat," Lucas would say. "Let's see your pretty hair!"

Another Medal of Honor recipient pointed at the man in the hat and said, "That's a Marine."

It was Joe Foss.

Joe Foss has been a lot of things. He has been in the Air Force. He has been in the National Guard. He has hosted a sports show on national television. He was a commissioner of the American Football League. He has even been governor of South Dakota.

Of all the things Joe Foss is, the best description, and the one he chose as the title for his autobiography, is "A Proud American."

With 26 kills to his credit, Gov. Foss finished two kills

behind Maj. Greg “Pappy” Boyington on the Marine Corps’ list of fighter aces.

The citation accompanying Gov. Foss’s Medal of Honor recognizes the totality of the ace’s accomplishments. The kills were accumulated above the Solomon Islands “in almost daily combat” over the course of several months, states the citation signed by President Franklin Roosevelt. In May of 1943, President Roosevelt personally decorated the Marine aviator in the oval office.

“He had a lot of personality,” Gov. Foss recalled of his first commander-in-chief.

To say that Gov. Foss experienced daily combat and scored 26 kills is to mention only a portion of what he endured during the war.

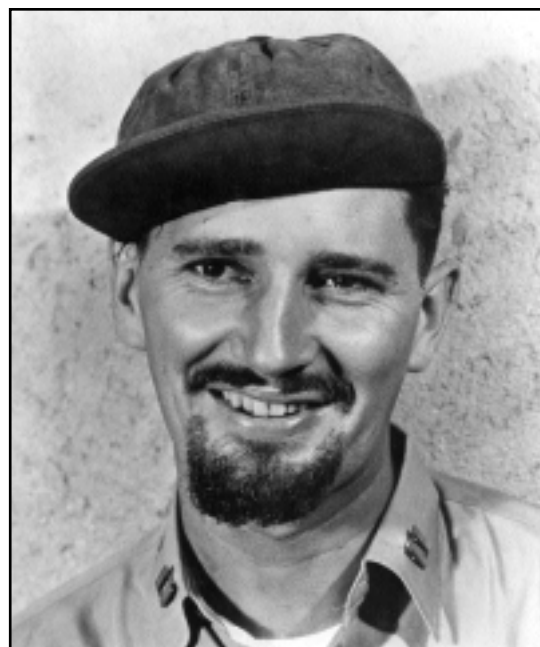
Four times he was shot down, and on one of those occasions he had to bring his plane down in the ocean. His raft was nowhere to be found, and the tide was pulling him away from the nearby island of Malaita.

“It was absolutely pitch black and pouring down rain,” he said. “You sort of live minute-to-minute. You look back on it - no hope of being rescued at all.”

Through a sequence of fortunate events, some natives saw his plane go down, and some missionaries paddled out to fetch him.

Even when Gov. Foss wasn’t in the cockpit of his F-4 Wildcat, life was harrowing. As the governor recalls in his autobiography, the Japanese would shell American positions on an almost nightly basis, forcing him and his buddies to get their rest while taking cover in fighting holes. A day with minor hassles might involve bathing in a stream and picking off the leeches.

On one occasion Gov. Foss drew the unenviable task of leading seven other planes above a Japanese battleship to divert its attention and draw its fire. While Gov. Foss and his



Official USMC photo

**Joe Foss as a captain, while stationed in the South Pacific during World War II. During a six-week stretch, Capt. Foss shot down 22 Japanese planes in the area of Guadalcanal. Sixteen of those planes were the notorious Zero fighters.**

men served as a death-tempting distraction, U.S. torpedo planes caught the battleship off guard and sank it.

Looking back on it all, Gov. Foss just sees himself as a pilot who loved to fly. “I didn’t know anything about medals,” he said while relaxing in his room at the Sheraton. “Medals were the least of my worries.”

He said he knew he had to be a Marine pilot ever since he saw some Marine stunt fliers in 1933. “I just like the cut of the jib with the Marines,” he said.

Just as Hollywood often tries to capture some of the magic that surrounds Medal of Honor recipients, toy and game manufacturers try to do the same.

Microsoft consulted with Gov. Foss in order to perfect its Combat Flight Simulator 2, which enables virtual pilots to fly Wildcats and similar aircraft in World War II’s Pacific Theater. The game currently ranks as Amazon.com’s best-selling flight simulator.

America can’t help but revere its Medal of Honor recipients. They embody all the virtues that the country wants to ascribe to its G.I. Joes and G.I. Janes.

In 1998, Hasbro, the maker of G.I. Joe, issued a figure commemorating Marine Medal of Honor recipient Col. Mitchell Paige. America responds to imaginary Medal of Honor recipients in novels and movies, but Hasbro realized that nothing matches the inspiration of a true Medal of Honor story.

Children act out deeds of heroism with their toys. Teenagers act out deeds of heroism with their computer games. Adults lose themselves in tales of heroism at the movies. Athletes speak in metaphors of war and sacrifice.

But Medal of Honor recipients are the real deal. We don’t liken them to anyone else because they’re incomparable.



Official USMC photo

**Medal of Honor recipient Jim Swett as a major in 1949.**



# Medal of Honor Facts



## ***How many Marines have earned the Medal of Honor?***

The award has gone to 294 Marines. Two of those Marines earned the award twice.

## ***Who are the two Marines who earned the award twice?***

If you don't remember this from boot camp, you should be remanded to your old drill instructors for 24 consecutive hours of quarterdecking, followed by 48 straight hours in the pit. In the early 20th century, Dan Daly earned the medal as a private serving in China and as a gunnery sergeant serving in Haiti. Smedley Butler earned the medal in 1914 for action at Vera Cruz and in 1915 for action in Haiti.

## ***Has a woman ever received the Medal of Honor?***

Mary Walker, a physician with the Army Medical Corps during the Civil War, received the award in 1866. She wasn't recognized for any combat action, but she tended to many wounded soldiers and even spent four months as a prisoner of war. In the early 1900s, Walker and 910 others lost their medals after a review panel concluded the criteria for the medal hadn't been met. In 1977, however, President Jimmy Carter restored Walker's Medal of Honor.

## ***Who was the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor?***

In 1862, during the Civil War, Cpl. John Mackie maintained a steady stream of musket fire and then helped fire cannons as the USS Galena attacked a Confederate fort. Mackie attacked without regard for shellfire that "raked the deck of his ship," according to his medal citation.

## ***Who was the last Marine to earn the Medal of Honor?***

Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith, a machine gunner, earned the award posthumously for action in Vietnam's Quang Ngai Province on May 8, 1970. When his platoon came under attack, he charged into enemy fire, killing several of the attackers and making it possible for his platoon to defeat a numerically superior force.

## ***What episode resulted in the most Marines receiving the Medal of Honor?***

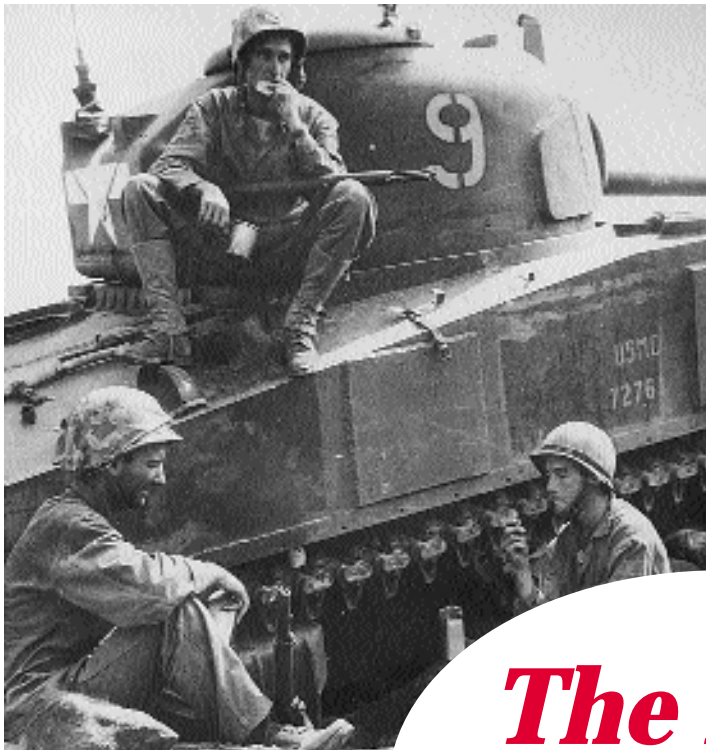
During the fight for Iwo Jima in World War II, 22 Marines earned the Medal of Honor. No other battle in Marine Corps history can match that.

## ***Who was the only Marine to earn the Medal of Honor during the landing at Inchon, Korea?***

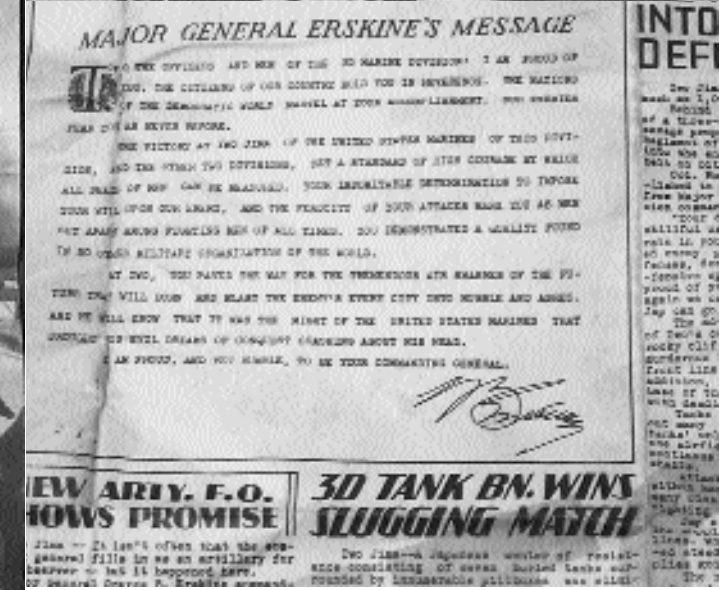
First Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez earned the award posthumously. He was preparing to throw a hand grenade when he was wounded in the shoulder and forced to drop it. Unable to pick the grenade up, he threw his body on it to protect his men.

## ***Who was the only Marine to earn the Medal of Honor during the battle for Belleau Wood in World War I?***

Gunnery Sgt. Fred Stockham gave up his breathing mask during a gas attack so that a wounded comrade could use it. Stockham then proceeded to help evacuate wounded troops. The effects of the poison gas killed Stockham within a few days.



# *The IWO Experience*





# Retired Marine Shares Iwo Jima Experience

Story by Cpl. Jason Morris  
MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

"D-Day! We circled some big rock for some time, and then we went to Iwo. We couldn't see much of it, but the task force was really working it over. It was smoking from Mount Surabachi to the high northern end. It seems impossible anyone could still be alive there, but we knew they were."

Master Gunnery Sgt. William "Dill" Odom, Marine radio repairman, wrote that passage in his diary Feb. 19, 1945, while aboard the USS President Adams.

Odom enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1942, from his hometown of Macon, Ga., and graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., later that year.

"I remember being put on the radio with a couple of new Marines in Macon," said Odom. "They asked us why we joined the Marine Corps and the other two guys said they wanted to serve their country and for the pride it makes them feel, stuff like that. I told them 'I just wanted the Dress Blues.'"

Odom served his country and Corps by traveling on the island hopping campaign. He spent 36 days on the island of Iwo Jima.

"I remember on one occasion, a buddy and I needed to cross one of the airfields," he said. "We knew the flight line was a duck shoot for any snipers, so we both took off running for the other side. It was like those nightmares, when you have to run a long distance and the other end keeps pulling away from you with every step you take."

After several days on the island, Odom's group was told that a line needed repair near the front. Two men were sent to repair the line and were killed before the mission was accomplished. After their demise, Odom took on the task himself.

"I got up, took the pistol my friend had been admiring ever since I got it, and handed it to him," said Odom. "I said 'take this, I know you've always wanted it, so you can have it.' I then proceeded to give him everything else I had including the letters that I wanted him to mail. I knew I wasn't coming back.

"I went out to where the wire was cut and fixed it without even hearing any shots," he continued. "I didn't know what to think. But I had a hard time getting all my stuff back when I returned." Eventually, Odom said, he got his things returned.

There was a firefight on the island a few days after Odom fixed that line. He said after the fire subsided, he checked the body of one of the enemies.

"I found several papers on this Japanese soldier, one of which was in an unusual place," said Odom. "It was in the pocket over his heart. I turned the papers over to intelligence, but I kept that letter.

"I'm not sure why," said Odom. "I think it was because of where he was keeping it. They didn't usually keep important papers there." The Japanese generally kept their papers in a pouch, which was tied around their waist.

Many years after the war, Odom opened the letter from the deceased soldier and had it translated. It turned out to be a letter to the soldier's sister.

"I was glad that I waited to get the letter translated," said Odom. "It would have made me look at the enemy as a person, and it would have been harder for me to do what was necessary.

"I found his sister and delivered the letter to her," said Odom. "She was very happy that I had done that, so was I."

After spending several days on the island, Odom was preparing to depart with the rest of his unit. The night before departure Odom and his companions remarked on how they had managed to make it through relatively unscathed by the vicious fighting.

"On the night of March 26, 1945, they let 30 of us go to the regiment to watch a movie," said Odom. "It was about a mile from our command post. After the movie, we walked back and were talking about how we were going to get off this island without a scratch.

"I guess we kind of cursed ourselves, because shortly after we said that, a machine gun opened up on us," said Odom. "We all survived that attack. We didn't think much about it at the time, but that little incident was one of the miracles of Iwo."

Odom plans to take his diary from World War II and publish it sometime in the future.



# The Korean Story

## Remembering the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

*Note To Reader: This piece summarizes an article that Robert V. Aquilina wrote for Fortitude in the summer of 1986. Fortitude is the newsletter of the Marine Corps Historical Program.*

In January of 1951, with the Korean War heading into its seventh month, the 1st Marine Division still had plenty of fighting in its future.

Working alongside Army units, the veterans of the Chosin Reservoir campaign helped establish a line south of Seoul. The line, in the middle of the Korean peninsula, countered a Chinese offensive.

However, a North Korean guerrilla division infiltrated the line. Consequently, the 1st Marine Division launched the month-long Pohang "guerrilla hunt" and crippled the North Korean invaders.

In February and March, the 1st Marine Division joined Army units in heavy, front-line fighting. With the 1st Marine Division leading the way, United Nations forces drove toward the 38th parallel, which now stands as the border between South Korea and North Korea. As Chinese and North Korean forces retreated, they abandoned Seoul, the South Korean capital.

In late April and the middle of May, the Chinese launched two counteroffensives. On both occasions, they pushed aside South Korean forces and penetrated the United Nations lines. On both occasions, United Nations forces, spearheaded by the 1st Marine Division, met the Chinese attacks. The two Chinese attacks saddled the communists with total casualties of

approximately 190,000.

By the first week of June, the 1st Marine Division was engaging North Korean forces and seizing territory in treacherous mountain terrain. Also, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was hammering enemy positions with air strikes.

Amidst all these setbacks, the Chinese sought truce talks. Negotiations between United Nations and communist representatives began July 10. As it turned out, the Chinese motive for proposing peace talks was to buy time.

By late August, all units of the 1st Marine Division were alerted for the renewal of offensive operations. The end of the war was not yet in sight. More information about the Korean War can be found at [www2.hqmc.usmc.mil/koreanwar/mckw.nsf](http://www2.hqmc.usmc.mil/koreanwar/mckw.nsf)



**Battalion Move—Major General Gerald C. Thomas, commander of the First Marine Division, inspects the loading operation of a helicopter airlift in North Korea.**

Photo by Sgt. Bob Said

**Leathernecks infantrymen supported by tanks advance into a Korean village on the central front.**

Photo by Sgt. William Keating



**Marines advance on enemy positions on the central Koreans front. Advancing more than ten miles in two days, Leathernecks blasted Chinese from hilltop positions.**

Photo by Pfc. Carl T. Wehner





# Marines Xtreme!

Story by MCRC Public Affairs

For the second year in a row, Marine Corps recruiters stormed the ESPN Winter X Games. This year's competition was held at Mount Snow, Vermont, 1-4 Feb.

Marines from the Marine Corps Recruiting Command, 1st Marine Corps District, and Recruiting Stations Albany, N.Y., New York, N.Y., Buffalo, N.Y., Portsmouth, N.H., and Springfield, Mass. showcased the popular red humvee, the Chin-Up Challenge and gave away one Marines Xtreme snowboard each day.

The Marines collected more than 1,100 Special Event Registration Cards from qualified Chin-Up Challenge Participants during the four-day competition.



**TOP:** Maj. Gen. Garry L. Parks, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, takes a few minutes to thank the team from MCRC and the 1st Marine Corps District who manned the enhanced area canvassing booth in the Interactive Village at the ESPN Winter X Games.

Photo by SSgt. Demetrio J. Espinosa

**CENTER:** Staff Sgt. Matthew Sewell counts out pull-ups as an X Games spectator pumps them out. During the four-day event, approximately 4,000 spectators took the Marine Corps Chin-up Challenge.

Photo by Sgt. Matthew A. Butler

**LEFT:** The proud winner of a Marine Corps snowboard.

Photo by Sgt. Matthew A. Butler





Watch Team Marines driver David Donohue guide the Team Rensi Motorsports Chevrolet Monte Carlo during this year's NASCAR Busch Series Season.

